

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The current claims follow. For claims not marked as amended in this response, any difference in the claims below and the previous state of the claims is unintentional and in the nature of a typographical error.

1. (Currently Amended) A data switching device comprising:
  - at least one guaranteed throughput data input configured to receive an incoming stream of  
guaranteed throughput data;
  - at least one best effort data input configured to receive an incoming stream of best effort data;  
data switch inputs for guaranteed throughput and best effort data;
  - data switch[[ outputs;]] outputs, each data switch output having one and the same output  
buffer both configured to collect guaranteed throughput and best effort data;
  - a data switch ~~interconnecting~~ configured to interconnect the data switch inputs and the data  
switch outputs;
  - combined control means ~~for controlling~~ configured to control data scheduling of the incoming  
streams to the data switch such that the best effort data scheduling is based on a contention free  
guaranteed throughput scheduling, said combined control means comprising:
    - a guaranteed throughput control means coupled for controlling configured to control a  
guaranteed throughput data scheduling to schedule the guaranteed data in one step, wherein the one  
step comprises at least one ~~of a~~ reservation of a connection between one of said at least one data

switch input and ~~a reservation of at least one~~ of said data switch output such that no best effort data is sent to the same data switch input as the guaranteed throughput data, and best effort control means coupled for controlling a best effort data scheduling; and

at least one guaranteed throughput input buffer selectively coupled to at least one data switch input by the combined control means, wherein the at least one guaranteed throughput input buffer is configured to store only one unit of guaranteed throughput data at a time.

2. – 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A data switching method, comprising:

scheduling, in one step, guaranteed throughput data for switching, wherein the one step comprises ~~[[a ]]~~at least one reservation of a connection between a data switch input and a data switch output inputs and/or outputs such that no best effort data is sent to the same data switch input as the guaranteed throughput data; and

scheduling best effort data for switching, wherein the best effort data scheduling is based on a contention free guaranteed throughput data ~~scheduling~~ scheduling,

wherein the data switch output comprises one and the same output buffer both configured to collect guaranteed throughput and best effort data.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, characterized in that the best effort scheduling is performed after the guaranteed throughput scheduling.

7. – 9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein a contention resolution for said best effort data scheduling is based on bipartite graph matching.

11. (Currently Amended) A data switching device comprising:

a switching matrix configured to switch data from a plurality of inputs to a plurality of ~~outputs; outputs, wherein each output comprises one and the same output buffer both configured to~~ collect guaranteed throughput and best effort data;

a plurality of multiplexers coupled to the plurality of inputs of the switching matrix;

a plurality of best effort input buffers coupled as inputs to the plurality of multiplexers, each of the best effort input buffers configured to store best effort data;

a guaranteed throughput input buffer coupled as another input to a first multiplexer of the plurality of multiplexers, the guaranteed throughput input buffer configured to store guaranteed throughput data; and

combined scheduling control means coupled to the plurality of multiplexers, the combined scheduling control means comprising:

guaranteed throughput control means configured to schedule the guaranteed throughput data in one step, wherein the one step comprises at least one ~~of a reservation of at least one a~~ data switch input and a reservation of at least one data switch output such that no best effort data is sent to the same data switch input as the guaranteed throughput data, for transfer through the switching matrix to one of the plurality of outputs of the switching matrix; and

best effort control means configured to selectively fill said best effort input buffers with best effort data and schedule the best effort data for transfer through the switching matrix to another one of the plurality of outputs of the switching matrix, wherein best effort control means is

further configured to schedule the best effort data based on a contention free guaranteed throughput scheduling.

12. (Previously Presented) The data switching device according to claim 11, further comprising a plurality of output buffers coupled to the plurality of outputs of the switching matrix, wherein each output buffer is configured to collect both guaranteed throughput and best effort data.

13. (Previously Presented) The data switching device according to claim 11, wherein the guaranteed throughput input buffer is configured to store only one unit of guaranteed throughput data at a time.

14. (Previously Presented) The data switching device according to claim 11, wherein the best effort control means is further configured to disable best effort requests corresponding to the input of the switching matrix to which the first multiplexer is coupled for a frame during which the guaranteed throughput data is transferred through the switching matrix.

15. (Previously Presented) The data switching device according to claim 11, wherein the best effort control means is further configured to disable best effort requests corresponding to the output of the switching matrix to which the guaranteed throughput data is transferred for a frame during which the guaranteed throughput data is transferred through the switching matrix.

16. (Previously Presented) The data switching device according to claim 11, wherein the best effort control means is further configured to schedule the best effort data after the guaranteed throughput control means schedules the guaranteed throughput data.

17. – 18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The data switching device according to claim 11, wherein the best effort control means is further configured to schedule the best effort data and in three steps, wherein the three steps comprise a request step, a grant step, and an accept step.

20. (Previously Presented) The data switching device according to claim 19, wherein the best effort control means is further configured to schedule the best effort data using multiples of the three steps.

21. (Previously Presented) The data switching device according to claim 11, further comprising a plurality of demultiplexers coupled to the plurality of best effort input buffers, wherein a first demultiplexer of the plurality of demultiplexers is also coupled to guaranteed throughput input buffer, wherein the first demultiplexer is configured to distribute data from an incoming data stream to a corresponding best effort input buffer or the guaranteed throughput input buffer.

22. (Previously Presented) The data switching device according to claim 1, wherein the best effort scheduling is performed after the guaranteed throughput scheduling.

23. (Previously Presented) The data switching device according to claim 1, wherein the best effort data scheduling takes one or more multiples of three steps, including the steps: request, grant and accept.

24. (Previously Presented) The data switching device according to claim 1, wherein a contention resolution for said best effort data scheduling is based on bipartite graph matching.

25. (Previously Presented) The data switching device according to claim 1, wherein the best effort control means is further configured to disable best effort requests corresponding to a data switch input to which a multiplexer is coupled for a frame during which the guaranteed throughput data is transferred through the data switch.

26. (Previously Presented) The data switching device according to claim 1, wherein the best effort control means is further configured to disable best effort requests corresponding to a data switch output to which the guaranteed throughput data is transferred for a frame during which the guaranteed throughput data is transferred through the data switch.



27. (New) A data switching device comprising:

at least one guaranteed throughput data input configured to receive an incoming stream of guaranteed throughput data;

at least one best effort data input configured to receive an incoming stream of best effort data;

data switch inputs for guaranteed throughput and best effort data,

data switch outputs, each data switch output comprising one and the same output buffer both configured to collect guaranteed throughput and best effort data ,

a data switch configured to interconnect the data switch inputs and the data switch outputs,

a combined controller configured to control data scheduling of the incoming streams to the data switch such that the best effort data scheduling is based on a contention free guaranteed throughput scheduling, said combined controller comprising a guaranteed throughput controller configured to control a guaranteed throughput data scheduling to schedule the guaranteed data in one step, wherein the one step comprises at least one reservation of a connection between one of said data switch input and one of said data switch output, such that no best effort data is sent to the same data switch input as the guaranteed throughput data and a best effort controller configured to control a best effort data scheduling; and

at least one guaranteed throughput input buffer selectively coupled to at least one data switch input by the combined control means wherein the at least one guaranteed throughput input buffer is configured to store only one unit of guaranteed throughput data at a time.

28. (New) A data switching device comprising:
- a switching matrix configured to switch data from a plurality of inputs to a plurality of outputs wherein each output comprises one and the same output buffer both for collecting guaranteed throughput and best effort data;
  - a plurality of multiplexers coupled to the plurality of inputs of the switching matrix;
  - a plurality of best effort input buffers coupled as inputs to the plurality of multiplexers, each of the best effort input buffers configured to store best effort data;
  - a guaranteed throughput input buffer coupled as another input to a first multiplexer of the plurality of multiplexers, the guaranteed throughput input buffer configured to store guaranteed throughput data; and
  - a combined scheduling controller coupled to the plurality of multiplexers, the combined scheduling controller comprising:
    - a guaranteed throughput controller configured to schedule the guaranteed throughput data in one step, wherein the one step comprises at least one reservation of a data switch input and a data switch output such that no best effort data is sent to the same data switch input as the guaranteed throughput data, for transfer through the switching matrix to one of the plurality of outputs of the switching matrix; and
    - a best effort controller configured to selectively fill said best effort input buffers with best effort data and schedule the best effort data for transfer through the switching matrix to another one of the plurality of outputs of the switching matrix, wherein the best effort controller is further

configured to schedule the best effort data based on a contention free guaranteed throughput scheduling.